

EUT⁺

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Deliverable 43

D4.1.3b Creation of graduate schools

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WP 4

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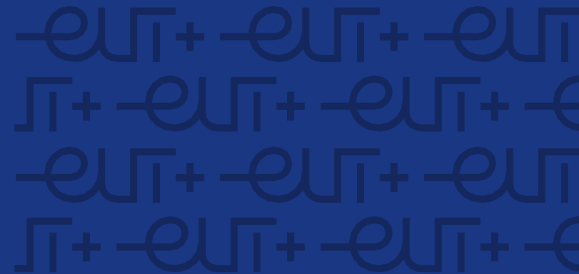


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Preamble

Task 4.1 of work package 4 named "Graduate schools for education inside the research" is aimed at restructuring research and formation within the European University of Technology (EUT+) in graduate schools, involving researchers, students, and also stakeholders in order to form knowledge creating teams around defined research topic areas. Such a structuring as labs or institutes, respectively, allows for a better integration of research and education at all levels, benefiting both researchers and students.

This deliverable represents the fourth deliverable of this task and documents the activities undertaken and results achieved since the beginning of EUT+ in continuation of the works reported in the first three deliverables on the subject of the design of graduate schools and a graduate curriculum. In the first deliverable 4.1.1 the design of graduate schools has been presented for serving as the strategic orientation document for the designing of the graduate schools within EUT+ with the graduate school structuration strategy of knowledge creating team including postgraduate students and the EUT+ European Research Institutes (ERI). These outcomes were brought together and lead into the formulation of the EUT+ Memorandum of Agreement creation of European Research Institutes, the Related EUT+ Graduate Research School and Supporting Research Office as presented and detailed further in the second deliverable 4.1.2. In deliverable 4.1.3a the analysis and conclusions for the creation of graduate schools was described together with a general structuration proposition designed to fit the given development of the ERIs and their graduate schools as an extension of and adaption to the goals of the task. As a succession, in this deliverable the final configuration of the proposed EUT+ European Graduate Research School (EGRS) as a support office is described and the agreement concluded by all alliance members for its establishment is presented.

Part 1

1.1 Background

Previously in this task an extensive survey of the state of practice in the EUT+ alliance member was conducted. In addition, the activities and results of the planning of creation steps were anchored firmly within the research-related work package as a whole and in particular with the developments and course of matters concerning the EUT+ research institutes (ERIs) establishment and the graduate school in them.

As a result of the analysis of the alliance members' structures and regulations, the need for a linking hub for information provision and matchmaking supporting the researchers along the way of forming the institutes emerged. This led to the jointly created concept of a structure of a common EUT+ Graduate Research School (EGRS) as a central EUT+ structural element supplying this demand.

As a further effect, the establishment of the EGRS as a long-term office is intended to become a reliably existing reference point was deemed useful. At the same time, the office's purpose will be to accompany the ERIs in their forming phases and in parallel create support activities usable by the institutes once they become operational.

1.2 Conceptual Key Points

As outlined in the all-comprising EUT+ Memorandum of Agreement for the creation of European Research Institutes (ERI), the Related EUT+ Graduate Research School and Supporting Research Office dating from November 2021, for the support of research-related activities the structuration of research institutes in EUT+ has been fixed together with supporting offices. In February 2022 the EUT+ European Research Office (ERO) and the newly conceived EUT+ Innovation & Technology Transfer Office (EITTO) were established by agreement of the alliance members.

The EGRS setup has been designed in a similar manner as for the ERO and the EITTO. The idea is that each alliance member delegates one person with a background in the local postgraduate management and domain experience to the EUT+ Graduate Research School. In this way given expert knowledge and professional experience is readily available and can complement the developments on a European level in a bidirectional manner. The office complements and in turn is embedded into the

existing structures of partner universities so that it can fulfill its role as a coordination and liaison hub between all ERIs, the ERO and all partner universities, partner's doctoral and graduate schools and each partner's local administration and research units.

The financing of the EGRS is designed in a lean fashion, as thanks to the delegation of personnel no additional cost or needs for personnel arise, merely the costs for funding for travel costs arising from attending EUT+ meetings and working meetings as well as for trainings or seminars and operations have to be budgeted and made available.

1.3 Office Objectives

The description of the EGRS has been created following the idea of predefining as little as possible but as much as necessary so that room can be given to new ideas emerging and innovative and novel approaches for the purpose of supporting researchers in EUT+ and the EUT+ European Research Institutes for the training and supervision of doctoral students and masters-by-research-students and the creation of joint European degrees in these areas.

Serving as a contact point for researchers, doctoral or graduate schools of EUT+ and its postgraduate students in relation to doctoral training and masters-by-research programmes may facilitate the accompaniment of the reach institutes during their development process and potentially supplementation of the applicable graduate schools from a subject-specific point of view.

The various tasks regarding the education and training of doctoral and masters-by-research students of EUT+ in the institutes have been named:

- creation of common EUT+ cotutelle agreements,
- inclusion of doctoral students in the Erasmus mobility schemes (as per third cycle Erasmus+).
- provision of post-graduate training in cooperation with and for the ERIs in alignment with local graduate or doctoral schools,
- including jointly supervised PhD outside the ERIs,
- creation of a joint EUT+ doctoral title,

- development of a master-by-research study programme schema in cooperation with the ERIS,
- building a European degree for Master by Research (MRes) in alignment with the European degree offered by EUT+.

These tasks can be addressed together from various angles through close cooperation with the institutes and the activities within EUT+ to this respect.

1.4 Agreement Closure

The agreement for the EGRS has been finalized and foresees participation of all alliance members. It lists the operational details next to the purpose and intend of the office. It was signed in January 2023 to come into force with immediate effect.

Part 2

EUT+ Agreement for the Creation of the EUT+ European Graduate Research School :
see annex.

Part 3

3.1 Discussion and next steps

Having established the EGRS by agreement, the next steps in working can be taken. Through setting in motion the bridging the ERI's prephases and linking and supporting efforts from a central perspective the supporting offers for the institutes can be developed while accompanying them in their process of coming into being.

An immediate next steps will be the development of a doctoral programme in the field of sustainability sciences as a first pilot for gaining experiences.

3.2 Conclusion

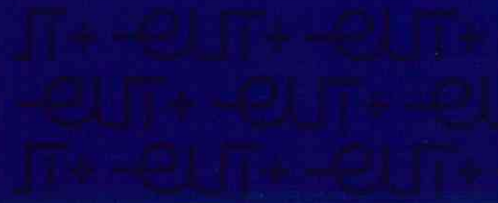
With the establishment of the graduate research school as an office within EUT+ a milestone has been achieved – even though it was only set during the project execution along the way. As explained early in the previous deliverable, this action initiated and seen through mitigates the delay in the institute erection while at the same time alleviating their work load with the help of collecting first experiences and creating support offers for the task of creation graduate school within the institutes.

Appendix

- Agreement for the creation of the EUT+ European Graduate School, January 2023.



EUROPEAN
UNIVERSITY OF
TECHNOLOGY



EUT⁺

AGREEMENT FOR THE CREATION OF THE EUT+
EUROPEAN GRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOOL

ENGLISH VERSION



BETWEEN the following other partners:

University of Technology of Troyes (France), whose headquarters are located 12 rue Marie Curie - 10000 Troyes, France, represented by its Director, Mr Christophe COLLET,

Hochschule Darmstadt, Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences (Germany), whose headquarters are located at Haardtring 100, 64295 Darmstadt, represented by its President, Mr Arnd STEINMETZ,

Rīgas Tehniskā universitāte, Riga Technical University (Latvia) with its seat at Kaļķu iela 1, Rīga, 1658, represented by its Rector Leonīds RIBICKIS,

Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta Bhaile Átha Cliath, Technological University Dublin (Ireland), whose registered office is at North Circular Road 191 Park House Grangegorman, Dublin D07 EWV4, represented by its President David FITZPATRICK,

Технически университет София Technical University of Sofia (Bulgaria) with seat at Kliment Ohridsky Bd 8, Sofia 1000, represented by its Rector Ivan KRALOV,

Τεχνολογικό Πανεπιστήμιο Κύπρου, Cyprus University of Technology (Cyprus) with its seat at Archbishop Kyprianos 31 Savings Cooperative Bank Building 3rd Floor, Lemesos 3036, represented by its Rector Panayiotis ZAPHIRIS,

Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena, Technical University of Cartagena (Spain), with registered office at Plaza del Cronista Isidoro Valverde, Edificio la Milagrosa, Cartagena 30202, represented by its Rector Beatriz MIGUEL HERNÁNDEZ,

Universitatea Tehnică din Cluj-Napoca, Technical University of Cluj-Napoca (Romania) with seat at Str Memorandumului 28, Cluj-Napoca 400114, represented by its Rector Vasile TOPA.

Hereinafter referred to as "**the partners**".

Where a provision applies indiscriminately to the "Coordinator" and the "Partners", in the context of this Agreement, they shall be collectively referred to as the "Partners".

The initiative or project "European University of Technology" is also referred to by its acronym "EUT+".

All the active partners for the development of the project are also called "the Alliance".

FIRST OF ALL, THE FOLLOWING IS SET OUT:

Having regard to the second call for Erasmus+ "European Universities" projects,

Having regard to the application file for this call for projects and its annexes, which the partners submitted on 26 February 2020,

Having regard to Grant Agreement N°101004088 (Annex 2) signed by the partners and the European Commission on 16 October 2020,

In the event of a conflict between the terms of this agreement and the Grant Agreement, the terms of the Grant Agreement shall prevail.

HAVING STATED THIS, IT IS AGREED AND DETERMINED AS FOLLOWS:

Preamble

In November 2021 the partners of the European University of Technology (EUT+) Alliance have signed a Memorandum of Agreement for enabling the founding of EUT+ Research Institutes (ERI) and the related EUT+ European Graduate Research School (EGRS) and the supporting EUT+ Research Office (ERO). This memorandum forms an extension of this agreement that specifies more detail on the operation of the EUT+ European Graduate Research School.

1 Foundation of the EUT+ European Graduate Research School

- (1) The name of the office is EUT+ European Graduate Research School (EGRS).
- (2) All EUT+ partners are jointly creating the office.
- (3) Each partner university delegates one person, initially part time, to the EUT+ European Graduate Research School Office.
- (4) The delegates are employees of the partner university with expertise in doctoral regulations, doctoral studies and with responsibility for management of doctoral schools as well as master-by-research-programmes.
- (5) The office will report to the Research Committee and the Secretary General.

2 Purpose

- (1) The EGRS supports researchers in EUT+ and the EUT+ European Research Institutes as a European graduate school for the training and supervision of doctoral students and masters-by-research-students and the creation of joint European degrees in these areas.
- (2) The office complements and is embedded into the existing structures of partner universities.
- (3) It serves as a coordination and liaison hub between all EUT+ European Research Institutes (ERIs), the EUT+ European Research Office (ERO) and all partner universities, partner's doctoral schools and each partner's local administration.

3 Tasks

- (1) The EGRS shall be a contact point for researchers, doctoral or graduate schools of EUT+ and its postgraduate students in relation to doctoral training and masters-by-research programmes.
- (2) The graduate school provides support to existing structures of the partner universities.
- (3) For internal coordination the delegates will work together and may create committees as may be required in the course of working.
- (4) The main tasks to be fulfilled by the school are in the field of education and training of doctoral and masters-by-research students of EUT+. This includes in particular:
 - Development and implementation of a common EUT+ cotutelle agreement for doctoral students,
 - Inclusion of doctoral students in the Erasmus mobility scheme,
 - Training provision in cooperation with and for the ERIs in alignment with local graduate or doctoral schools,

- Inclusion of jointly supervised PhDs outside the ERIs,
- Creation of a joint EUT+ PhD award,
- Support for existing masters-by-research programmes at the partner universities,
- Development of masters-by-research programmes in cooperation with the European Research Institutes,
- Development of a European degree for Master by Research in alignment with the European degrees offered by EUT+.

4 Financing

- (1) Each partner university agrees to delegate at least one person, in the beginning in part time, as a personnel resource to the EUT+ European Graduate Research School. The time committed to the EGRS will be monitored by the Research Committee and will be adjusted in line with the level of activity.
- (2) For each delegate the partner university concerned will allocate funding for travel costs arising from attending EUT+ meetings and working meetings as well as for other training or related supporting seminars.
- (3) The office may propose the allocation of an operational budget. This will be assessed by the Research Committee.
- (4) If approved, the contributions to the operational budget shall be negotiated and agreed between the partner universities.
- (5) Subsequent operational budget allocations will be requested by the EGRS on an annual basis and assessed and approved by the Research Committee.

5 Reporting

The graduate school shall annually report to the Research Committee and the Corporate Secretary about activities, and achievements of EUT+ in the field of research and its particular tasks.

6 Ending the EGRS

- (1) Ending the EUT+ European Graduate Research School requires either an application by the office itself to the Research Committee, or an agreement of the Research Committee.
- (2) The board of EUT+, Rectors' board, may, in accordance with recommendations from the ERIs and the Research Committee, decide by mutual agreement to dissolve the graduate school if the circumstances change in such a way that the permanent and sustainable fulfilment of the tasks of the graduate school no longer appears reasonable or is no longer possible.
- (3) In the event of the closure of the EGRS, the remaining amounts of any established operational budget will return - according to the quota of the contribution - to the partner universities.
- (4) In the event of dissolution, obligations entered into for the future shall be borne proportionately by the partner universities on a pro rata basis. Failure to ensure the timely termination of all legal obligations, by any partner university will be considered a

breach of its duties.

7 Liability

The partner universities shall be liable to each other - irrespective of the legal basis - only for intentional and gross negligence. This also applies to their legal representatives and their vicarious agents. This limitation of liability does not apply to injury to life, body or health. Only the following shall be liable to third parties the partner university that caused the damage; it shall indemnify the other cooperation partners to the extent that the in this respect.

8 Final provisions

Amendments and supplements to this agreement must be made in writing. This also applies to the cancellation of this written form clause itself.

Regarding any differences of opinion arising from this agreement, including those that only arise after the termination of this agreement, the partners involved shall attempt to settle them amicably. If this does not succeed the presidents of the partner universities shall first be asked to reconcile their opinions.

In case of doubt about the interpretation of this agreement the parties involved shall seek a decision by the presidents of the partner universities to bring about a binding decision by the presidents of the partner universities.

9 Entry with effect

The agreement enters into force upon signature by all parties involved in the EUt+ European Graduate Research School.

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*Darmstadt University of Applied
Sciences*



Prof. Dr. Arnd Steinmetz, President

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